



**CONFERENCE OF THE REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE
ASSEMBLIES OF THE EUROPEAN UNION**

CALRE'S RULES

approved by the Plenary Assembly of Santiago de Compostela, 7 and 8 November 2014

TITLE I – GENERAL PRINCIPLES

ARTICLE 1 - NAME AND DURATION

1. CALRE stands for the “Conference of the Regional Legislative Assemblies of the European Union (EU)”. The Presidents represent their assemblies. The Association is formed for an unlimited term.
2. Since the founding Declaration of Oviedo in 1997 the CALRE’s mission is to go in depth in the democratic and participative principles within the framework of the EU, to defend the values and principles of regional democracy, and to reinforce links among Regional Legislative Assemblies.
3. CALRE will commit itself to having the principle of subsidiarity respected and consolidated in the European Union.
- 3bis CALRE works to strengthen relations with other European organisations, in particular the Committee of the Regions, including REGLEG.
- 3ter In order to increase and improve relations with the European Parliament, CALRE examines possible ways of relating, referencing existing frameworks relationship with State Parliaments.
4. The Association complies with the principles established in the Council of Europe’s Convention of Madrid of 1980 (STE n° 106) and its First, Second and Third Protocol.

ARTICLE 2 – OBJECTIVES

1. CALRE makes a contribution to the democratic participation of Regional Legislative Assemblies within the framework of the European Union, and by strengthening the relations between the regional assemblies, in particular by exchanging good practices.
2. CALRE supports the activities of cross-border cooperation of its associates.
3. CALRE coordinates its members in their participation in institution-building projects organized by third parties.

4. CALRE fully respects the principle of the autonomy of each Assembly.
5. Membership and participation are voluntary.

ARTICLE 3 – MEMBERSHIP

1. The Regional Assemblies with legislative powers belonging to one of the European Union member states can become a member of the Conference.
2. The Standing Committee decides upon new membership requests. In its decision, the Committee shall take into account the specific characteristics of each Assembly, in accordance with paragraph 1 of this article.

ARTICLE 4 - ORGANIZATION AND ATTRIBUTION OF EXPENSES

1. The Assembly holding the CALRE Presidency is responsible for the logistical and technical organization, including interpreting services, of the meetings of the Standing Committee and the Plenary Assembly of the CALRE.
2. Travel and accommodation expenses for attending CALRE's meetings are paid by the participating delegations.
3. To participate in the Plenary Assembly a registration fee must be paid to the organization (including the President and collaborators) the amount of which is set by the Standing Committee.

ARTICLE 5 – LANGUAGES

1. The languages used in CALRE's meetings and conferences are those of the attending regions, according to the requests. Each participant uses his or her own language; simultaneous interpretation is provided in the language of the Presidency and in English only. The translation into any other language will be borne by the requesting participant and it will be coordinated by the Parliament responsible for the organization of the meeting.
2. The CALRE working documents, written in the language of the proposing region, are accompanied by the corresponding translation in English.
3. The publication of the annual declaration and other CALRE documents must be written in all the relevant languages for CALRE regions. Every national delegation, or regional parliament, commits itself to provide the corresponding translation within 30 days of the receipt.

TITLE II

THE BODIES OF THE CALRE

ARTICLE 6 - CALRE'S BODIES

1. The bodies of the CALRE are the President, the Vice President, the Standing Committee and the Plenary Assembly. The Secretary General and the Working Groups are subsidiary bodies.

CHAPTER I – PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT

ARTICLE 7 - THE PRESIDENT

1. The President is the representative of CALRE. He/she chairs CALRE's meetings, and has the power to make all necessary decisions concerning the implementation of the decisions of the association's bodies.
2. The President is ex officio entitled to represent CALRE in its name and on its behalf. However, he/she may delegate his/her ability so to act to a representative of his/her choice, through a duly signed and dated written document.
3. The President may delegate certain tasks to the Vice-President.
4. The President who leads the ongoing conference determines the dates on which the meetings of the Standing Committee and the Plenary Assembly take place. The Standing Committee meets a maximum of three times a year and at least one of the meetings is held at the headquarters of the CALRE Presidency. The other two meetings are held preferably in Brussels, at the headquarters of the Committee of the Regions.

ARTICLE 8 - DESIGNATION

1. CALRE's President is elected by a majority of the Plenary Assembly. The nomination is granted for any President of a Regional Legislative Assembly upon written application to the Standing Committee. The written application must include a list of proposed meeting and a political agenda.
2. Candidatures can be submitted until the last Standing Committee meeting before the Plenary Session.

ARTICLE 9 - DURATION OF THE MANDATE

1. The mandate begins on 1st January and expires on 31st December of the same year; the mandate may be extended for a second year at the request of the President and with the approval of the Plenary Assembly. From the election of the new President to its inauguration of office there is a duty on the part of the incoming President to assist the outgoing President in relation to any relevant institutional CALRE event.

2. The new President is elected every year at the Plenary Assembly.
3. If the mandate of the President of the Assembly that organizes the conference expires, his/her successor shall take his/her place.

ARTICLE 10 - TASKS OF THE PRESIDENT

1. The President of the CALRE also, apart from other tasks, has the following duties:
 - a) he/she has to deal with relations between the European Union in the name of and to the account of the CALRE;
 - b) at every meeting of the Standing Committee he/she must present the minutes of the previous meeting. He/she has to present the minutes of the previous Plenary Session during the first meeting of the Standing Committee;
 - c) the outgoing President, to ensure effective continuity, has a duty to provide all the necessary information to his/her successor.
 - d) He/she is closely associated to the activities of the Committee of the Regions and in particular with the Interregional group of Regions with legislative powers.

ARTICLE 11 - THE VICE-PRESIDENT

1. The former President acts as Vice-President for one year after his/her term of office.
- 1.bis. The Vice-President whose mandate as regional President expires for any reason is replaced by his/her successor in the Legislative Assembly of origin.

CHAPTER II - THE STANDING COMMITTEE

ARTICLE 12 – COMPOSITION

1. The Standing Committee is formed by the President of the present Conference, the Vice President, one President per State, a delegation per member state, and the Chairman of the working groups.
2. Each Member State is responsible for nominating their representatives to the Standing Committee and informs CALRE promptly on an annual basis. In those States in which the number of regional legislative Assemblies is less than or equal to three, the designated President may delegate another member of the Regional Legislative Assembly of origin or a component of another regional Legislative Assembly of the same State.

ARTICLE 13 – TASKS

1. The CALRE Standing Committee is entitled of the following tasks:
 - a) convening its members so that the Plenary Assembly can be prepared within the four month period prior to the date of the next meeting;

- b) deciding the agenda of the next meeting, including the topics for discussion by the Plenary Assembly;
- c) appointing speakers who have to develop, present, and discuss reports and appointing others who have to act as panel chairmen;
- d) resolving any institutional or representative case of public or community importance which must be decided on a collegiate basis;
- e) holding a meeting on the eve of the opening of the Plenary Assembly. During that meeting, the Standing Committee will make a decision about accepting emergency amendments, the duration of the speeches, the time for debate, and final details necessary for the Plenary Assembly to take its normal course.

CHAPTER III - THE PLENARY ASSEMBLY

ARTICLE 14 – COMPOSITION

1. The Presidents of the member Assemblies are members at the Plenary Assembly. Presidents may delegate a member of their own assembly as substitute for the Plenary.
2. The CALRE's President can invite guests without the right to vote.

ARTICLE 15 - TIME SCHEDULE

1. The Plenary Assembly convenes once a year.
2. The Plenary Assembly takes place during the last four months of the year.

ARTICLE 16 - PREPARATION OF THE PLENARY ASSEMBLY

1. In considering the topics and in drafting the final declaration, which is presented during the annual meeting of the conference, the following principles must be taken into account:
 - a) the President must send the draft of the annual Declaration to all members at least 30 days before the opening of the Plenary Assembly;
 - b) members may present amendments on the annual declaration's draft. They have to be sent to the President at least 15 days before the opening of the Plenary Assembly;
 - c) the President must inform all members regarding any proposed amendments at least seven days before the opening of the Plenary Assembly;
 - d) urgent amendments can be handed in up to 48 hours before the opening of the Plenary Assembly;
 - e) any urgent amendments will have to be approved by the Standing Committee before they can be dealt with by the Plenary Assembly.
2. Without prejudice to the use of other means of communication when necessary, speeches and amendments are to be sent by e-mail.

ARTICLE 17 - DEVELOPMENT OF THE PLENARY SESSIONS

1. The President shall introduce the Declaration at the Opening Session.
2. Discussion, voting and approval of the amendments are subject to the following order:
 - a) presentation of the amendments;
 - b) discussion of the presented amendments;
 - c) vote of the amendments.
3. The President must fix the time given for the discussion of the amendments.
4. The President must decide the voting order of the amendments.
5. The President must introduce an interval for transactional amendments, with an opportunity allowed for explaining the content and reasons in justification.

ARTICLE 18 - REVOCATION OF AMENDMENTS

1. The person who tabled an amendment can revoke it during the discussion.
2. Notwithstanding the present President can adopt those amendments, and request a vote on them by the Plenary Assembly.

ARTICLE 19 - INTERVENTION LIST

1. Presidents who are present at the Plenary Assembly and who want to speak on the topics for discussion, must declare this to the President at least one hour before the session concerned starts. If discussion of the amendments and the voting phase in respect of them has concluded, the President allows them speak in turn, in the order of request.

ARTICLE 20 - APPENDIX OF THE ANNUAL DECLARATION OF THE CONFERENCE

1. If a member wishes to take into account a topic for the annual Declaration that is not included in the agenda of the Plenary Assembly, he/she must inform the President 7 days prior to its opening.
2. The Standing Committee has to reconsider the relevance of the case and has to approve its admission into the business of the conference.
3. The intervention takes place when discussion and voting on the items on the agenda has concluded. The intervention must be in writing and is included in the appendix to the annual Declaration.

ARTICLE 21 – VOTE

1. The declarations of the CALRE, the annexes, as well as amendments to its rules must be approved by the Plenary Assembly in a final vote by consensus. Abstentions do not affect consensus.

2. In order to facilitate debate and agreement during the preparatory procedure of the final agreements, the CALRE will use the criterion of simple majority for the amendments.

ARTICLE 22 – EXECUTION

1. When the tasks of the Plenary Assembly are completed, the host President must send the documents approved by the conference to all interested parties and institutions. The President must manage relations with the European Union in the name of and on behalf of the CALRE; so that the content of the documents will be put into practice.

TITLE III - SUBSIDIARY BODIES

ARTICLE 23 - THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT

1. The Standing Committee is assisted in performing its tasks by a General Secretariat that consists of a representative, appointed by each member of the Committee. The President appoints the Secretary General for the duration of his/her mandate.
2. The Assemblies concerned shall propose projects or initiatives to the Standing Committee - which can adjust the CALRE annual action plan accordingly - including by making the technical means available and by providing for the active participation of the Secretary General, which will be supported by the Assemblies concerned.

ARTICLE 24- WORKING GROUPS

1. The Plenary Assembly can set up working groups on the motion of the Standing Committee. It may also approve the setting up of working groups between CALRE and other associations and/or institutions aimed at the deepening and the exchange on issues of common interest.
2. Apart from a standing working group on subsidiarity, the subjects of the working groups are determined annually by the Plenary Assembly at the proposal of the Standing Committee. Their term may not exceed two years. The working groups' conclusions will be published following the approval by the Plenary Assembly.
3. The conveners of the working groups will be summoned to the meetings of the Standing Committee, at which they will be able to speak but will not have voting rights.
4. The financing of any expenses incurred are decisions that must be taken by the members of the working group.
5. The establishment of the working groups approved in the Plenary Assembly will be effective if those groups will be constituted at least by the Parliaments of three different Countries.

TITLE IV - FINAL DISPOSITIONS

ARTICLE 25 - THE CALRE WEB PORTAL

1. The website of the CALRE is the official means of communication and transmission of information, not only to its members but also to other European institutions and organizations.
2. The President of the CALRE is responsible for managing the website, and for the information that is published on it.

ARTICLE 26 - LOGO/SYMBOL

1. The logo is made up of 54 blue stars which are partly superimposed over the word CALRE and surrounded by a yellow line.